

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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BULLETIN

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"The greatest of all leaders, certainly in the history of our nation, have been those of the hopeful kind."

—THE RT. REV. JAMES E. FREEMAN

Support Needed for Economic Security Bill

HEARINGS on the Economic Security Bill before the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee have been completed. The House Committee is engaged in revising the bill, and will report in a short time. It is expected that the Senate Finance Committee will take up the bill promptly after the House bill is reported.

Indications of support of the bill as a whole are greatly needed in order that prompt passage may be obtained, thus giving the states a basis for legislative and administrative action this spring. Messages of endorsement should be addressed to your Senators and Representatives in Washington.

The best way of safeguarding the child welfare

provisions is to urge passage of the bill as a whole, and administration of the child welfare features of the bill in the Children's Bureau. It is also important that standards with reference to state and local administration be kept in the bill substantially as originally drafted.

THIS bill is the answer to the Conference on Emergencies in the Care of Dependent and Neglected Children held in Washington in December, 1933, and to our subsequent efforts to make more nearly adequate provision for this specific group of children. Widespread feeling has often been expressed that the

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Our Case Load Principles

GRACE W. REDDING

Assistant Director, The Cleveland Humane Society

FIGURES of case loads in children's agencies are difficult to compare, and even in one agency are hard to understand without considerable interpretation. The size and complexity of the organization are factors in considering case loads. Distribution of the loads must depend upon the inner organization of the agency, and especially upon whether it has various departments.

The Cleveland Humane Society is a private agency serving a county-wide area, with the functions of child protection, child placing, and case work service to unmarried mothers. Our cases are set up with the family as a unit. Separate records are kept of each child who is placed in a foster home. On January 1, 1935, our statistics included service to:

1. 845 families, with 1,556 children in their own homes;
2. 953 children in foster homes;
3. 548 unmarried mothers.

Our agency has been going through a transition period. A public agency, the Cuyahoga County

Child Welfare Board, was formed in 1930, taking over part of our case load. Since then, large groups of children have been transferred to them, together with foster homes and quite a number of staff members. An unusual number of children have had to be transferred to new workers, which makes a load of moderate size equivalent to a larger load in time and thought consumed.

For administrative reasons, and to allow the full benefit of special techniques, we maintain:

1. A Home-finding Department;
2. An Infant Department;
3. An Unmarried Mother Department.

In addition to these, we have four groups of case workers, with their respective supervisors, doing work both with children in their own homes and with children placed in foster homes. These groups include senior case workers and students.

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Montreal—June 9 to 15

MUCH mail is still outstanding with regard to plans for the League's program at the National Conference of Social Work in Montreal, and therefore the following outline, while showing the trend of the program, will be amplified in later issues of the BULLETIN.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

2:00 P. M. Institutions for Children.

1. Working with Dependent and Delinquent Children in the Same Institution—H. V. Bastin, Anchorage, Ky.
2. How an Institution May Maintain a Socially Efficient Personnel; Why Train, and How—H. W. Hopkirk, Albany, N. Y.

Discussant: Miss Sybil Foster, New Haven, Conn.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

2:00 P. M. Consideration of Some Practical Measures for Benefit of Youth in the Sixteen to Twenty-one Year Age Group. (Tentative.)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

1:00 P. M., Luncheon.

Presiding Officer: Cheney C. Jones, Boston, Mass.

Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Monsignor Robert F. Keegan, nominee for President of the National Conference of Social Work, 1936. Subject to be announced.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

2:00 P. M. "In Times of Change."

1. Child Welfare Work in a Changing Social Order—J. Prentice Murphy, Philadelphia.
2. Certain Phases of Child Health as They Relate to Dependency and Neglect—Dr. Martha M. Eliot, Washington, D. C.

Discussant: Douglas P. Falconer, Brooklyn, N. Y.

6:30 P. M., Annual Dinner and Meeting of the League.

Presiding: Jacob Kepecs, President.

1. Executive Director's Report—C. C. Carstens.
2. President's Address, Reorientation in Services for Children—Jacob Kepecs.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

2:00 P. M. Series of Group Meetings.

1. Housekeepers' Service
Leader: Miss Helen D. Cole, New York, N. Y.
2. Questions in Foster Family Care—Use of various types of homes, boarding, free, working, wage, farm; foster parents' organizations and meetings; community relations of the foster child.
3. Uses and Abuses of Child Guidance Clinics by Child-Caring Agencies, or How to Secure the Best Contribution from Psychiatry to Case Work with Children.
4. Day Nursery Care. (Joint meeting with National Federation of Day Nurseries.)
5. Current Questions in the Field of Illegitimacy. (Joint meeting with the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy and the National Girls' Work Council.)

Leader: Miss Jane B. Wisdom, Montreal.

(1) Foster Home Work with the Unmarried Mother—Miss J. Vera Moberly, Toronto.

6. Characteristic Limitations of Church Service to Dependent Children. (Joint meeting with Church Conference of Social Work and Episcopal Social Work Conference.)

THE League's program is being arranged again this year under the chairmanship of Cheney C. Jones, superintendent of the New England Home for Little Wanderers, and a vice-president of the League.

Headquarters of the League will be at Hotel Windsor, where most of its meetings will be held. It will maintain a service booth at National Conference headquarters in the Sun Life Building, a short distance from the Windsor.

The League has a limited supply of reduced railway certificates and letters of instruction to be used in connection with travel to Montreal, and will be glad to issue them upon request to League members who are not members of the Conference. Certificates should be secured direct from the Conference office by Conference members.

Child Health Day

DIPHTHERIA immunization has been chosen by the May Day Committee of the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America as the May Day-Child Health Day project for 1935.

It was chosen because there has been practically no reduction since 1930 in the number of deaths from diphtheria throughout the United States. Some states have accomplished a marked reduction in the number of deaths, hence it follows that others have a proportionate increase, indicating that the proven method of prevention has not been satisfactorily applied.

The slogan chosen is "Immunize Now—Stamp out Diphtheria."

The objective is to immunize all children between the ages of six months and six years, and to maintain this as a continuing service.

Dr. S. J. Crumbine, general executive of the American Child Health Association, writes:

"Concerted action by State Departments of Health, the medical profession and parents should make the accomplishment of this objective possible. Our task is to assist in getting information on the need for immunization to parents in all communities and to

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Adjustment of Children in Institutions

SISTER SUPERIOR MARY PAUL

Superintendent, St. Joseph's Infant Asylum, Cincinnati

(Paper read at foster parents' division of training institute sponsored by child-caring agencies of ten counties of Ohio and held at St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cincinnati, February 27 and 28.)

EVERY child in an institution has come there as the result of some domestic tragedy. Whether the cause be death of father or mother, separation, divorce, whatever it be in the child's case the tragedy is real. As in the literary tragedy the supreme climax is reached only by way of several minor climaxes in the emotional intensity, so it is in the case of the child whose normal life in the family is suffering shipwreck. Before the final separation or breaking up of the home, there were emotional climaxes from which the child suffered more or less intensely.

In most cases of the breaking up of a family, a spiritual breakdown antedated the actual dissolution. Such being the case it is rather to be expected that each dependent child should come to the institution with a mental or spiritual problem no less real and often far more difficult of solution than the more apparent one presented in his need of physical care.

A knowledge of each child's background is necessary to the understanding of his particular needs. How greatly those needs may vary! The child may

have come from a good home, or he may never have known a normal home. In the latter case he is in even greater need of sympathetic understanding than is the child who has known this blessing and who has known the suffering of this bitter loss. Whether the child has known a real home or whether he has not, he stands in need of sympathy, understanding, love.

The possession of these three qualities—the ability to understand, the capacity to sympathize, the power to love—is essential in any and every one who would stand to the child in the place of parent. Whether or not the person is an actual parent makes little difference. Investigation on the subject has revealed the fact that these essential qualities are possessed in high degrees by many who are not parents, and that they are lacking or are poorly developed in some who are parents. The mere fact of physical parenthood does not in itself insure to an individual the possession of any remarkable sympathy, understanding, love.

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New Tribunal in Minneapolis

CHARLES E. DOW

Superintendent, The Children's Home Society of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS has a new court of domestic relations—a new court, at any rate, that very closely approximates a court of domestic relations, although it is not to be so designated officially. It has this new tribunal, not through special legislation setting it up, but solely through wise judicial planning. Perhaps herein lies a suggestion for other cities that desire to have a court of domestic relations but have not secured, and might have difficulty in securing, special legislation establishing such a court.

The Minneapolis Juvenile Court—in legal terms, the Juvenile Court of Hennepin County—was established in 1905. It was not set up as a separate court with a judge functioning only in that court and only in relation to matters involving children. The District Court, which is a court of general jurisdiction, became a Juvenile Court with special powers when dealing with children. One of the District Court

judges was designated as a Juvenile Court judge but he retained all other powers vested in him as a judge of a court of general jurisdiction.

The practical working out of the plan has been that the Juvenile Court judge has held Juvenile Court regularly on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, and occasionally for emergency cases at other times. He has, however, been still charged with his general duties as a judge of the District Court. Therefore, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays the Juvenile Court judge sits in the general session where he may hear accident cases, suits for breach of contract, and, in fact, civil litigation of every sort, with or without a jury. He has not taken criminal cases.

THE new set-up comes through an agreement made by the judges of the District Court and especially

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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.—Editor.

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Support Needed for Economic Security Bill

(Continued from page 1)

Federal Government has overlooked and failed to take action on the needs of these children. This bill is the Federal measure that remedies this neglect. Very obviously, it is of vital import to the League's membership to support these measures, and to secure the interest and backing of others.

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee have manifested sympathy to the proposal of Federal assistance to children under the various headings outlined in the bill. Some members of the Committee, however, have reservations regarding the extent of supervision the Children's Bureau should exercise in these measures, including that of assistance to dependent children (mothers' aid).

The measures, as originally drawn, cover the Federal-state-local relationships carefully, and in a way to bring the maximum efficiency in administration without autocratic control.

League's Mid-West Conference

DISCUSSION of measures in the Economic Security Bill as they relate to children, by Miss Agnes K. Hanna, of the United States Children's Bureau, will open the Mid-West Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America in Chicago on Friday morning, March 22. The conference, with all sessions at the Knickerbocker Hotel, is scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd.

Following Miss Hanna's address, a five-minute presentation will be given by delegates from each of the states represented at the conference concerning their local situations.

At a dinner meeting Friday evening, C. C. Carstens, who has been conducting a child welfare survey in Honolulu, will tell of his experience in Hawaii.

One session of the conference is to be devoted to the problems of older children. Following a short address by Dr. Herbert E. Chamberlain, associate professor of psychiatry, University of Chicago, there will be round tables, the subjects including:

1. Educational and social needs of older children.
2. Standards of wage homes.
3. The dependent child at the age of self-support.
4. The boy offender above juvenile court age.
5. Relief service to minors.
6. An evaluation of the federal program as it relates to older boys.
7. Community responsibility for the prevention of delinquency.
8. The illegitimate father.
9. Development of an awareness of children's problems in relief organizations.

Other round tables are to be held, as follows:

1. Evaluations of child placement (including discussion of recent studies in Minnesota).
2. A community program for the medical care of children.
3. The development of housekeeper service; the use of the public agency and people on work relief.
4. Some problems of private institutions.
5. Working relationships between staff and board members. (Attendance limited to board members.)
6. The participation of parents in child placement.
7. County reorganization from the standpoint of county welfare services.
8. Problems of case workers in rural areas.
9. Changing definitions of child neglect.
10. Support of private child caring agencies in non-chest communities.
11. A new tool in case work.
12. Publicity in social work.

A luncheon meeting will close the conference on Saturday. The Rev. Alfred Newbery, Rector, Church of the Atonement, Chicago, will speak on "The Underlying Spiritual Values in Social Work."

C. V. Williams, superintendent of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, is chairman of the committee arranging the conference.

No 1934 Foundlings in Baltimore

RECENTLY the *Baltimore Sun* carried a story that no foundlings were deposited on Baltimore doorsteps in 1934, according to T. James Hunter, chief social investigator of the Bureau of City Charities—at least, to his knowledge. The story says this is the first time in his thirty-five years of connection with

the Bureau that no abandoned babies have been reported to him. It also states he believes no foundlings were reported in 1934 because of the work of the Baltimore Emergency Relief Commission, which provides for needy families.

IN commenting on this news, Paul T. Beisser, General Secretary, Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, Baltimore, says:

"It has been the practice in Baltimore, as long as I have been here and since before that, for all foundlings to be referred to the Supervisors of City Charities. In fact, this was the only group for which they actively, publicly accepted complete responsibility.

"It is interesting that in the last few years there have been such a small number of foundlings, even though the previous average number was not very high. I suspect that Mr. Hunter is right in assuming that family relief has had some effect on the number.

"I suspect that one of the reasons for the small number at any time is the fact that since 1916 we have had the law forbidding the separation of a mother and baby during the first six months of the baby's life. Certainly, this has decreased materially the number of girls who come here from other communities with illegitimate pregnancies, and correspondingly the number of babies available for adoption and the number of abandoned babies.

"It is a very rare thing for us to have any baby brought to us for adoption, nor do we have any very large number of unmarried mothers coming for help in caring for themselves and their babies. It is perfectly natural to conclude that the effect of the six months' law is to compel them to go elsewhere at the time of confinement."

The average of foundlings during Mr. Hunter's regime is reported as approximately twelve a year. In 1931 there were six white foundlings and two Negro. In 1932, there was but one foundling—a Negro child. In 1933, there were two abandoned white babies.

Child Health Day

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urge them to act without delay. . . . Since the entire plan is based upon the cooperation of Departments of Public Health and the medical profession, *both should be consulted* in any community plans for diphtheria immunization."

Among agencies of which the officers have prom-

ised cooperation are the United States Children's Bureau, the United States Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, and the American Legion.

BELIEVING that immunization should be the work of the private physicians, and in order to obtain the cooperation of physicians in this work, the May Day Committee offered the suggestion to each state health officer in the United States that he send a communication to each physician in his state urging:

1. That he remind his patients who have children under school age of the need for immunization;
2. That he ask his patients to bring their children to be immunized;
3. That he make it a routine of his practice in the future to immunize, during the first year of life, all babies under his care.

"Even with certain states nearing the goal of *no deaths from diphtheria*," says Dr. Crumbine, "the health officers who have been heard from have responded enthusiastically to this suggestion."

Our Case Load Principles

(Continued from page 1)

The case work staff includes:

1. Nine supervisors, or department heads;
2. One "receiving secretary" for general intake, and one for foster home applications;
3. Forty-four case workers, including five first-year students and five second-year students.

THE student program of the agency has had an important effect upon the methods of carrying the work. The agency has a cooperative relationship with the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University, employing graduate student workers as part-time staff members during their training period of twenty-one months. In assigning field work, effort has been made to give them well-rounded experience, to allow them to develop according to their capacities, and to enable them to carry through their own cases when feasible.

If the family situation assigned for investigation leads to placement by the agency, the same worker continues with the placement and supervision of children in foster homes. The continuity of case work is not broken by an investigation or protective department, and a separate placing department.

This principle is carried out, insofar as possible, in the work of both students and senior case workers. We believe this avoids confusing the client by trans-

ferring him to a new worker as soon as the foster home treatment begins, and that this method enlarges the experience and opportunities for growth of the worker.

This set-up probably differs radically from the orthodox procedure in most children's agencies. It makes a comparison of our case load statistics with those of other agencies difficult. But we consider that it results in a greater emphasis on the family as a unit for case work, and that the gains to client and worker outweigh other obvious considerations of administration and technique.

SOME exceptions occur which we have not thus far been able to obviate. Two of the ten case workers in the Unmarried Mother Department are carrying supervision of some of the babies in foster homes. Other babies from this department are carried for supervision in the Infant Department, which is set up to maintain a careful watch over health and feeding problems. Our aim is to minimize division between the case work with the mother and supervision of the child; this separation of work is often only temporary, the family case work being combined with the supervision of the child as soon as possible.

Not all cases of illegitimacy are handled through the special department, but all such new applications involving the problem of a young baby and its mother are assigned there. A small number of cases are allotted outside the department in order to give certain other workers the experience of working with this problem.

Some split cases are necessary when certain children in a family have special needs that cannot be met by one case worker. For instance, the older boy often outgrows the kind of supervision a woman case worker can offer. Infrequently, a child in a distant foster home may be transferred to a different worker for more economy in supervision. Occasionally, a change may be advisable from the point of view of personality of child or worker.

DISTRICTING has not been attempted by our agency, either for assignment of new cases or of children placed in foster homes, although some geographical grouping is kept in mind by the supervisor in planning the workers' loads.

Assignment of new cases is so managed that freedom of choice is allowed the supervisors in the selection of case material they feel their workers are ready for, or need to add to their experience. One supervisor has a group of more seasoned workers,

who are expected to handle the more serious problems. Another supervisor has a senior worker who has specialized in adoption investigations on cases referred by Probate Court or individuals. Students are divided among three supervisors, who also have senior workers.

Among the loads of individual workers, there is variation in balance between case work to families without placed children, and supervision of children in foster homes. While it is not always possible to forecast whether a new case will involve placement, or preventive case work, there is usually some indication of the outcome, and the case is assigned to a worker who has the skill or personality to deal best with the problem. With students, the supervisors aim to keep a rather even balance, in order to provide well-rounded experience during the year.

The following gives the trend of case loads in our agency:

1. In the Unmarried Mother Department, 40 to 60 cases;
2. A senior case worker, 54 families, involving 75 children in their own homes, and 32 placed-out children;
3. A second-year student, 24 families, involving 17 children at home, and 27 children in foster homes;
4. A first-year student, 9 families, with 10 children at home, and 11 placed children.

These loads are high both in numbers and content, but we anticipate more discharges to the public agency.

It goes without saying that the case worker, especially one with psychiatric training, who is prepared to treat more difficult problems, is not used to best advantage if her load is so high that she cannot give the needed time and skill for treatment. Case loads of such workers are smaller, to allow intensive work.

Our supervisors of students reviewed the intake of the agency for nine months of 1933, with reference to cases given to students. They found that the simpler placement problems and investigations formed the basis of their new assignments, with transferred cases constituting about half their loads. Analysis of students' loads for the year showed a range of cases involving transferred and new cases of investigation, child protection, and placement in boarding, free, and wage homes. The principles underlying assignment involved the choice of experience in which the student would feel security, and which would stimulate interest and lead to growth.

It seems to us that the client's interests are best served by an uninterrupted treatment by the same case worker, as far as it is administratively possible; and that, while the senior worker does not need the

same protection as the student, the choice of material of which the case load is to consist is best made with a view to individual qualifications for service and enough variety of experience to ensure the continuing growth of the worker.

Adjustment of Children in Institutions

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HOWEVER much an institution may be made to substitute for a home, it can never fully qualify as is evident from the factors of changing personnel—both adults and children—with the resulting indifference, on the one hand, on the part of children toward those who have stood in the place of parents to them, and on the other, disappointment when they return to the institution and find those gone who were interested in them and in whom they had learned to place confidence.

The institution and its personnel will normally lack the affectionate regard which usually obtains between the normal grown-up and his old home and aged parents. The institution at best, then, can serve only as an agency, although an important agency, in adjustment.

Its problem in the case of each child is to take the child suffering as a result of domestic tragedy, whatever may be its particular nature, to study the child in order to adjust his environment in a way conducive to his normal development—mental, moral, spiritual as well as physical.

The problem of the child's adjustment requires that the institution arrange normal contacts between the child and his brothers and sisters in the institution; between the child and his relatives and friends outside the institution; in the school, in the church, in the community at large.

It is above all necessary that the institution teach the child the end and purpose of life, his proper relation to God. It is further required of the institution that it follow the child until he has taken his place among those who are naturally responsible for him, or until he is able to support himself.

About My New Brother

I am the sister of him and he is my brother.
He is too little for us to talk to each other.
So every morning I show him my doll and my book;
But every morning he still is too little to look.

M. M. SIEGEL (Age: 7 years)
The New York Times

New Tribunal in Minneapolis

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through the initiative of Judge Edward F. Waite, now serving his third term as judge of the Juvenile Court. Judge Waite long has been recognized by social workers as a judge who is deeply interested in social problems, and who has a wise, socially-minded approach to cases presented to him in the Juvenile Court. He preserves at the same time that sound attitude toward strictly legal requirements which is essential to preventing the decision of the court from being over-turned in *habeas corpus* proceedings. He is a director of the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies, and also of one of the settlement houses. He is to be the presiding judge in the new tribunal.

The new plan went into effect on February 4, 1935. It provides that all divorce cases involving children under 18 years of age, and all motions for alimony in such cases, all abandonment and illegitimacy cases, all cases for establishment of paternity and all writs of *habeas corpus* involving children under 18 years of age, shall be heard by that judge of the District Court who presides in the Juvenile Court. Adoption cases have been thus disposed of for several years past.

Thus, practically all types of cases that affect the social welfare of children will be heard before the same judge. Children will be brought more generally under the protection of the Juvenile Court. Furthermore, in a very large measure, cases involving marital troubles that have led to the divorce court will come before the judge of the Juvenile Court and thus will receive consideration from the standpoint of the social welfare of all the parties to the action.

It is realized, of course, that a full-fledged domestic relations court has not been secured through this arrangement. It is felt, however, that a very close approximation to such a court has been secured. Social workers of Minneapolis feel greatly indebted to Judge Waite and to other judges of the District Court for bringing about this new judicial plan.

May not such a plan be possible in other communities that have at present nothing corresponding to a domestic relations court?

Editor's Note: Readers of this article on the "New Tribunal in Minneapolis" will doubtless be interested in the following comment by J. Prentice Murphy: "As a piece of social work news, I am sure this will be of interest to many of the League members. Personally, I am not in favor of a universal plan for a

consolidated domestic relations court in every community. I can see how, with the influence of a man like Judge Waite, in a city the size of Minneapolis, much good would result from such a plan; but, in a larger city, one reaches a point as to size where the returns in terms of quality of work tend to fall off very rapidly."

Manual for Foster Parents

CHILD TRAINING, A MANUAL FOR FOSTER PARENTS, by Jessie A. Charters, Ph.D. The Division of Charities, State Department of Public Welfare, Columbus, Ohio, 1934. Paper bound, 126 pages. 30 cents per copy; in quantities of four or more, 25 cents each.

A FEW months ago, the BULLETIN carried a notice and review of this Manual. Recently the following letter came from Miss Esther McClain, of the Division of Charities of the Ohio State Department of Public Welfare:

"May we express our appreciation to the editors of the Child Welfare League Bulletin for their announcement and later review of the *Manual for Foster Parents* recently published by the Division of Charities?

"The results have been far-reaching, with requests ranging from single copies to amounts of one and two hundred copies coming from nearly a hundred child-caring agencies and institutions in the United States and Canada. Several letters of appreciation of the material indicate that children's agencies and institutions in the country are actively interested in a training program for foster parents and that they are ready for ideas along this line.

"It would seem to be an auspicious time for certain psychiatrists who have been guiding hands to children's agencies in their work with foster parents to follow up such leads as this and get busy and publish some of their ideas resulting from their experiences with foster parents that would be helpful to the thousands laboring in this field of child guidance.

"After the marked success of our simple little manual, we feel sure the field is ripe for more material of this nature, prepared by those who are dealing directly with foster parents.

"Since our first edition was quickly exhausted, we had a second printing of the manual and can now take care of all orders that come in should the editor of the BULLETIN care to mention this fact."

Children's Dictionary

THE THORNDIKE-CENTURY JUNIOR DICTIONARY, by Edward L. Thorndike. Published by Scott, Foresman and Company, New

York, 1935. 23,281 defined words; 1,610 pictures; 970 pages. List price, \$1.32. Discounts: 10%, to teachers; 25% on quantity orders. (A child welfare organization may buy copies, on orders of more than one, for 99 cents, plus transportation charge.)

UNDER the sponsorship of the noted educational psychologist, E. L. Thorndike, there has just appeared a school dictionary that should go far to make the dictionary what it should be but has never yet been, a ready work of reference for children in their reading, writing, and speaking.

Professor Thorndike has propounded in the preface and followed in the book the very clear principle that definitions for children must be in children's language and especially adapted to the children's background of experience. The definitions have therefore a refreshing simplicity and directness. They sound like the explanations that a capable teacher would actually give children in the classroom, and follow the well-known rule that definitions for young people must be *longer* than those for adults, rather than shorter. Then, because formal definitions may still be somewhat foreign to the grade pupil's way of thinking, pictures and illustrative sentences are used most freely.

One wonders how a dictionary-maker had the courage to give so much space to them, but Professor Thorndike and his assistants have shown everywhere in this book the courage of their convictions. In the arrangement of meanings, for instance, they have abandoned the historical arrangement, the oldest meaning first, and instead declare that "For them (the children) the proper principles of arrangement are: literal uses before figurative, general uses before special, common uses before rare, and easily understandable uses before difficult. . . ."

All in all, the book seems most attractive and helpful to the elementary pupil, and should secure the interest in the dictionary and the habit of using it that are so important. Professor Thorndike is to be congratulated on this outcome of his years of work in this field.

—E. W. DOLCH

Assistant Professor of Education, University of Illinois

Enclosures

(Sent to Members Only)

CLEVELAND CHILD HEALTH BULLETIN, February, 1935, 6-page mimeographed bulletin describing the unusual set-up and work of the Cleveland Children's Bureau Medical Clinic. Issued by Cleveland Child Health Association, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS? Publicity and appeal leaflet issued by Children's Home and Aid Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.